

Engineering Program for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EPIE), Engineering Student Innovation and Design Experience (ESIDE), and the Division of Industrial Relations at the Cullen College of Engineering present:

2023 EPIE SEMINAR SERIES

TRENDS IN PATENT FILINGS AND THE RESOURCES FOR INNOVATORS AND ENTREPRENEURS



Robin Evans
Deputy Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent & Trademark Office



Carmen V. Lyles-Irving
Texas Regional Outreach Coordinator
United States Patent & Trademark Office


 **Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, 2023**

 **4:15-5:15 pm**

 **Join us in-person:**
Agrawal Engineering Research Building (AERB), Suite 100 - [click to view map](#)

 **Refreshments will be provided!**

 **RSVP by Feb 15**
by emailing innovation@egr.uh.edu

 **For more information, contact:**
Dr. Shilpa Ghurye at sghurye2@uh.edu

ABSTRACT

Are you a budding innovator or entrepreneur who wants to learn how to protect your intellectual property? Are you a student who is interested in pursuing a career in the USPTO? Come join us to learn about the USPTO and the patent filings, the resources available for inventors and entrepreneurs, and the job opportunities as a patent examiner. You can email your questions to innovation@egr.uh.edu by Feb 15th or bring them with you to ask the esteemed USPTO representatives.

BIOS

Robin Evans: Deputy Commissioner for Patents

As Deputy Commissioner for Patents, Ms. Evans manages and leads patent examining functions in Technology Centers (TCs) that examine a wide variety of technology including transportation, construction, agriculture, electronic commerce and national security, as well as biotechnology and organic chemistry arts. She also provides executive leadership to the quality related offices responsible for training, process improvement, quality statistics and stakeholder experience.

Ms. Evans began her career at the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as a patent examiner focused on applications in the mechanical area. Ms. Evans was selected as the first Regional Manager of the first USPTO regional office located in Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Evans also served as the interim Director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Office in Denver, Colorado. Prior to her present role, Ms. Evans served as Acting Associate Commissioner for Patent Quality.

Ms. Evans serves as Executive Sponsor for a new Patents Business Unit (BU) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) committee to foster an inclusive workplace where diversity and individual differences are valued and leveraged. In this role, Ms. Evans provides leadership and direction to focus on equity, fairness and community.

Carmen V. Lyles-Irving: Texas Regional Outreach Coordinator

As the Texas Regional Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Lyles-Irving is responsible for stakeholder engagement and outreach initiatives on behalf of the USPTO in the eight states that comprise the Texas Region: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas.

Ms. Lyles-Irving is a Primary Examiner under Technology Center 1700 specializing in prosecuting patent applications in the fields of Fuel Cells and Batteries. In addition to working as a Primary Examiner, she has detailed at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board and with the Office of Petitions. Ms. Lyles-Irving has served with the USPTO from July 2012 through September of 2022, before that Ms. Lyles-Irving worked as a Registered Patent Attorney where her practice involved patent preparation and prosecution as well as trademark preparation and prosecution.

Additionally, Ms. Lyles-Irving worked in chemical processing and product manufacturing as a Chemical Engineer prior to attending graduate school and law school.

Ms. Lyles-Irving has a BS in Chemical Engineering from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, a MBA from The University of Georgia, and a JD from The University of Georgia.